

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

*The California Highway Patrol is a law enforcement and traffic safety agency reporting to Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet and Governor Gray Davis.*



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**CHP TARGETS TRUCK VIOLATIONS WITH \$1.1 MILLION GRANT**

SACRAMENTO – Beginning July 1, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) will launch a 12-month, \$1.1 million federal grant-funded enforcement and public awareness campaign targeting commercial truck drivers who speed, drive under the influence (DUI) or commit other violations.

The project goals are to reduce truck-at-fault fatal/injury collisions, including those commercial vehicle crashes related to DUI, by 5 percent.

The grant will pay for approximately 17,500 overtime hours for enforcement. The hours will be distributed among the CHP's eight field divisions according to the percentage of truck-caused injury/fatal collisions occurring in each division.

"Thanks to California's rigorous inspection and vehicle maintenance laws, and the efforts of our commercial enforcement officers, inspectors, and motor carrier personnel, mechanical failures cause less than one percent of truck-at-fault collisions," said CHP Commissioner D.O. "Spike" Helmick.

"Truck-at-fault collisions are usually the result of poor driving, so we're working with the trucking industry to target the small percentage of commercial drivers who violate basic traffic laws," Helmick said.

Officers will be looking closely for truckers who speed, follow too close, make unsafe lane changes, fail to stop for signs and signals, drive under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, or commit other violations.

Another element of the project will be to provide refresher commercial vehicle enforcement training for the more than 7,000 CHP officers. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

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